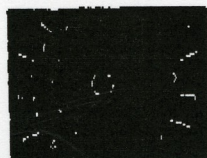


**DON'T BE FOOLED: YOUR  
RIGHTS ARE AT RISK  
FROM STATEHOOD**



## ***Government Brochure is Misleading***

Aboriginal people must be very careful not to believe everything printed in the Northern Territory Government's Statehood brochures.

The brochure, which has only been sent to Aboriginal communities, assures Aboriginal Territorians that your rights are not at risk from Statehood. This brochure contains some seriously misleading information.

### **Land Rights are not safe under a Northern Territory State.**

There is nothing in the Draft Constitution to protect Land Rights. Mr Stone has rejected this option. The Prime Minister has said that the Land Rights Act will be administered by the new State. This means the new State could change your rights. We have already seen how the Northern Territory Government attacked the Native Title Act; they could do the same to the Land Rights Act.

**Sacred sites are not safe.** The brochure says that the Sacred Sites Act cannot be changed without the agreement of Aboriginal Territorians and the Federal Government. This is not true. There is no legal reason why they have to consult you over sacred sites, and the lack of consultation on the draft Constitution shows that they are happy to ignore Aboriginal people.

**Customary law is not recognised.** The Draft Constitution gives the Government of the new State the power to write down our laws into whitefella law. That means limiting our law, not recognising it as it operates in our own systems, and accepting only the bits they like.

**Rights to our language, religion and culture are not properly protected.** The Draft Constitution only recognises our rights to our language, culture and religion among ourselves, in our own homes and communities. It does not protect our rights to use our own language and practise our culture in wider society. This is a limitation on the rights we should have, as Australians, to speak freely and have freedom of religion.

**Aboriginal people have not been involved in the process.** The 1993 Constitutional Convention in Tennant Creek rejected the NT's Statehood model. Aboriginal delegates walked out of the NT Statehood Convention in March/April this year. We have not been consulted; we have not consented.

# **VOTE NO ON OCTOBER 3.**